

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the panel decision to reopen prosecution and traverses the rejection of claims 1, 5-9 and 13-19 as the Fujita reference (JP 05116869) cannot anticipate the claimed features. The Fujita reference is not in English and as such only a small portion of the disclosure is usable by Applicant. Applicant requests that a translation be provided to allow a fair evaluation of this reference.

Claims 1 and 9 include the limitation that a roller includes a hardness that varies responsive to a magnetic field. Claim 16 requires the step of varying a hardness of at least one roller.

As best understood from the limited translation, the Fujita reference discloses a device for controlling vibration that includes a roller 10 mounted on a portion of lever 9. The lever 9 includes a portion 9c that is disposed within a damper device 20 having magnetic fluid 22. The viscosity of the magnetic fluid 22 in the damper device 20 is changed to control absorption of vibration by the damper device 20.

In Fujita the dampening rate is varied, not a hardness of the roller 10. In fact, there is no disclosure of a change in hardness of any structure or feature in the Fujita device. All that is disclosed is changing of a viscosity of the magnetic fluid 22 in the damper device 20. Change in the viscosity of the magnetic fluid 22 in the damper device 20 does not and cannot change the hardness of the roller 10. The changes to viscosity of the magnetic fluid 22 in the dampening device 20 is nothing that remotely discloses or even suggests changing a hardness of a roller as is required by the claims.

Further, the device disclosed in Fujita does not, and is not capable of varying a hardness of a roller. Claim 16 includes the step of varying a hardness of at least one roller responsive to a determined condition. Because Fujita does not disclose varying of a hardness of the roller it cannot anticipate the method steps of claim 16.

Accordingly, because the Fujita reference does not disclose, or suggest varying a hardness of the roller, the Fujita reference cannot anticipate the limitations present in the claims.

Additionally, the dependent claims include features that are not disclosed by the Fujita reference. For example, claim 5 requires a magnetic field generator adjacent the roller to vary a hardness of the roller. The Fujita references includes a coil 23 disposed about the dampening device 20, but does not disclose any structure that is adjacent the roller that can be activated to change the hardness of the roller.

Further, claim 17 requires that the rollers are filled with a fluid having a viscosity that changes responsive to a magnetic field. Clearly this is not disclosed by Fujita. Nothing in Fujita discloses or suggests that the Fujita roller is filled with anything.

Claims 2-4 and 10-12 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has not rewritten the allowable claims at this time because claims 1 and 9 are clearly allowable over the Fujita reference.

Accordingly, the claims are believed in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any necessary fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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